

October 24, 2003

Attention: FCC Chairman Powell, Commissioners, Abernathy, Copps, Martin, Adelstein and  
The Localism Task Force Committee:

My Son, Daughter and I own and operate a Low Power, Class "A" TV station in Trenton, New Jersey. Trenton, the capital of New Jersey, is in Mercer County. The county has 13 Municipalities, 3 Universities 1 Community College, 17 high schools and a total County population of 360,000.

The only source of local TV news in our County is our LPTV station WZBN TV25. We have been broadcasting a locally originated daily newscast since May 3, 1993. Our broadcast coverage area serves just one County within the entire Philadelphia DMA, market rank 4. Due to our proximity to New York City and Philadelphia the residents of Mercer County receive plenty of TV news from the NY and Philadelphia stations. If it were not for our LPTV station, Mercer County residents would not have local broadcast TV news of their community.

When we received the FCC Press release of August 20, 2003 and the announcement of hearings around the country on "Localism in Broadcasting" I was concerned to notice the absence of any mention of LPTV's role in local television. Although I am planning to attend one of these hearings, I must write now to make the case that Low Power TV receive as much emphasis and attention in these proceedings as LPFM radio.

**We have a problem:**

Low Power broadcast TV is virtually trumped by cable television. A question the FCC must ask is how can LPTV stations remain viable and continue to provide local programming. The answer for our station in New Jersey is that without access to the local cable systems, local broadcast news will no longer be available in Mercer County, New Jersey and I suspect many other communities like ours across the Nation.

I know that getting must-carry for Class A and LPTV stations is something the Commission feels Congress must do, and a Bill to accomplish that objective has been introduced. The New Jersey Legislature has introduced a resolution endorsing the Bill, a copy of which is included with these comments.

Meanwhile, it is important for the Commission to publicly recognize the importance of the local service provided by stations like mine, which as I have noted is the only locally-based source of television news in the capital of the State of New Jersey. We are fulfilling the objective that the Chairman and Commissioners espouse, and we are doing it every day. The more the Commission recognizes that fact, the more respect we will get from cable systems and other MVPDs, and the more likely it is that they will voluntarily join in recognizing our value, perhaps even without the need for forced government intervention.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Zaroni, Owner  
WZBN TV, Inc  
W25AW-CA License BLTTA -20030512ABW  
77 Shady Lane  
Trenton, NJ 08619

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 152

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2003

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PETER A. INVERSO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Urges NJ Congressional Delegation to support H.R.1626, the "Local Voices on TV Act of 2003," which provides for greater local television coverage.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**SR152 INVERSO**

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1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** encouraging the New Jersey Congressional  
2       Delegation to support H.R.1626, the "Local Voices on TV Act of  
3       2003," which provides for greater local television coverage.

4  
5   **WHEREAS**, The residents of State of New Jersey have a strong desire  
6       to receive television coverage of local news and information  
7       concerning their immediate community; and

8   **WHEREAS**, The small number of full power television stations  
9       allocated to New Jersey is inadequate to meet the television  
10      coverage needs of the State; and

11   **WHEREAS**, There are at least three licensed "class A" Low Power  
12      Television (LPTV) stations in New Jersey that provide valuable  
13      local and specialized television service which are not carried on all  
14      of the cable television systems within their region; and

15   **WHEREAS**, LPTV stations do not have the right, enjoyed by full  
16      power stations, to be carried on the local cable television systems  
17      within New Jersey because of a provision in the federal Cable  
18      Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992,  
19      which limits "Must Carry" rights to LPTV stations outside the  
20      largest 160 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and communities of  
21      license with populations less than 35,000; and

22   **WHEREAS**, The cable operators of New Jersey have been very  
23      reluctant to carry LPTV stations unless legally compelled to do so,  
24      even when LPTV stations are broadcasting local news and  
25      community information; and

26   **WHEREAS**, This provision in the federal law and the conduct of cable  
27      operators severely hamper the ability of LPTV stations to provide  
28      local news and community information desired by residents of New  
29      Jersey; and

30   **WHEREAS**, H.R.1626, the "Local Voices on TV Act of 2003,"  
31      provides for mandatory cable television systems carriage of all  
32      "Class A" LPTV stations; and

33   **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for this House to urge  
34      the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to support H.R.1626, the  
35      "Local Voices on TV Act of 2003," which grants "Must Carry"  
36      rights for LPTV stations for the regions they serve, including the  
37      State of New Jersey, when those stations broadcast local news and  
38      community information on a regular basis and to ensure the  
39      preservation of LPTV service to the benefit of the citizens of the  
40      State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

41  
42       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

43  
44       1. The New Jersey Congressional Delegation is urged to support  
45      H.R.1626, the "Local Voices on TV Act of 2003," which grants "Must  
46      Carry" rights for Low Power Television stations for the regions they

**SR152 INVERSO**

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1 serve when those stations broadcast local news and community  
2 information on a regular basis and, thus, ensures the preservation of  
3 Low Power Television broadcasting service to the benefit of the  
4 citizens of the State of New Jersey.

5  
6 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
7 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be  
8 transmitted to each member of Congress elected thereto from this  
9 State.

10  
11 **STATEMENT**

12  
13 This Senate resolution urges the New Jersey Congressional  
14 Delegation to support H.R.1626, the "Local Voices on TV Act of  
15 2003," which grants "Must Carry" rights for Low Power Television  
16 (LPTV) stations when those stations broadcast local news and  
17 community information on a regular basis and, thus, ensures the  
18 preservation of LPTV broadcasting service to the benefit of the  
19 citizens of the State of New Jersey.